

66. (Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the oligonucleotide is at least 14 bases in length.

67. (Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the oligonucleotide is about 23 bases in length.

68. (Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the oligonucleotide is between 14 and 23 bases in length.

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cont

69. (Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the messenger ribonucleic acid is viral.

70. (Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the messenger ribonucleic acid encodes a hormone.

71. (Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the oligonucleotide is stabilized to inhibit degradation by nucleases.

72. (Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the oligonucleotide is an oligodeoxynucleotide.

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Please add the following new claims 73-83:

73. (New) A method of selectively inhibiting the expression of a target protein in a cell producing messenger ribonucleic acids encoding the target protein and other proteins without inhibiting the expression of the other proteins, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a synthetic oligonucleotide that has enhanced resistance against nuclease enzymes and has a base sequence substantially complementary to a subsequence of a messenger ribonucleic acid of said cell, said subsequence coding for the target protein,  
introducing said synthetic oligonucleotide into the cell, and

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hybridizing said synthetic oligonucleotide to the subsequence of the messenger ribonucleic acid to inhibit the expression of the target protein.

74. (New) The method of claim 73 wherein said synthetic oligonucleotide is between 14 and about 23 bases in length.

75. (New) A method of selectively inhibiting the expression of a target protein in a cell producing messenger ribonucleic acids encoding the target protein and other proteins without inhibiting the expression of the other proteins, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a synthetic oligonucleotide that has enhanced resistance against nuclease enzymes and has a base sequence substantially complementary to a subsequence of a messenger ribonucleic acid of said cell, said subsequence coding for the target protein, and  
introducing said synthetic oligonucleotide into the cell at a temperature between 0°C and 80°C to hybridize said synthetic oligonucleotide to the subsequence of the messenger ribonucleic acid.

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cont

76. (New) The method of claim 75 wherein said synthetic oligonucleotide is between 14 and about 23 bases in length.

77. (New) The method of claim 75 wherein said temperature is between 10°C and 40°C.

78. (New) A method of selectively inhibiting the expression of a target protein in a cell producing messenger ribonucleic acid encoding the target protein, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a base sequence substantially complementary to said messenger ribonucleic acid of said cell coding for the target protein,

providing a synthetic oligonucleotide that is stabilized against *in vivo* degradative enzymes, said synthetic oligonucleotide having said selected base sequence, and

introducing said synthetic oligonucleotide into the cell whereby said synthetic stabilized oligonucleotide hybridizes to the subsequence of the messenger ribonucleic acid.

79. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein said synthetic oligonucleotide is between 14 and about 23 bases in length.

80. (New) A method of selectively inhibiting the expression of a target protein in a cell producing messenger ribonucleic acids encoding the target protein, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of base sequences that are complementary to said messenger ribonucleic acid,

providing a synthetic oligonucleotide corresponding to each of said base sequences,

selecting a preferred one of said synthetic oligonucleotides for inhibition of the expression of said target protein in a cell, and

using said selected oligonucleotide for inhibition of said target protein in cells.

81. (New) The method of claim 80 wherein said synthetic oligonucleotides are oligonucleotides stabilized against *in vivo* degradative enzymes.

82. (New) The method of claim 80 wherein said selected synthetic oligonucleotide is between 14 and about 23 bases in length.

83. (New) The method of claim 80 further comprising the step of synthesizing bulk amounts of said selected oligonucleotide for inhibition of said target protein *in vivo*.

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